

# KWS Wild

M A G A Z I N E



## KEEPING THE PROMISE - JOB CREATION FOR THE YOUTH IN CONSERVATION



[WWW.KWS.GO.KE](http://WWW.KWS.GO.KE)

3rd Edition  
July-December 2024

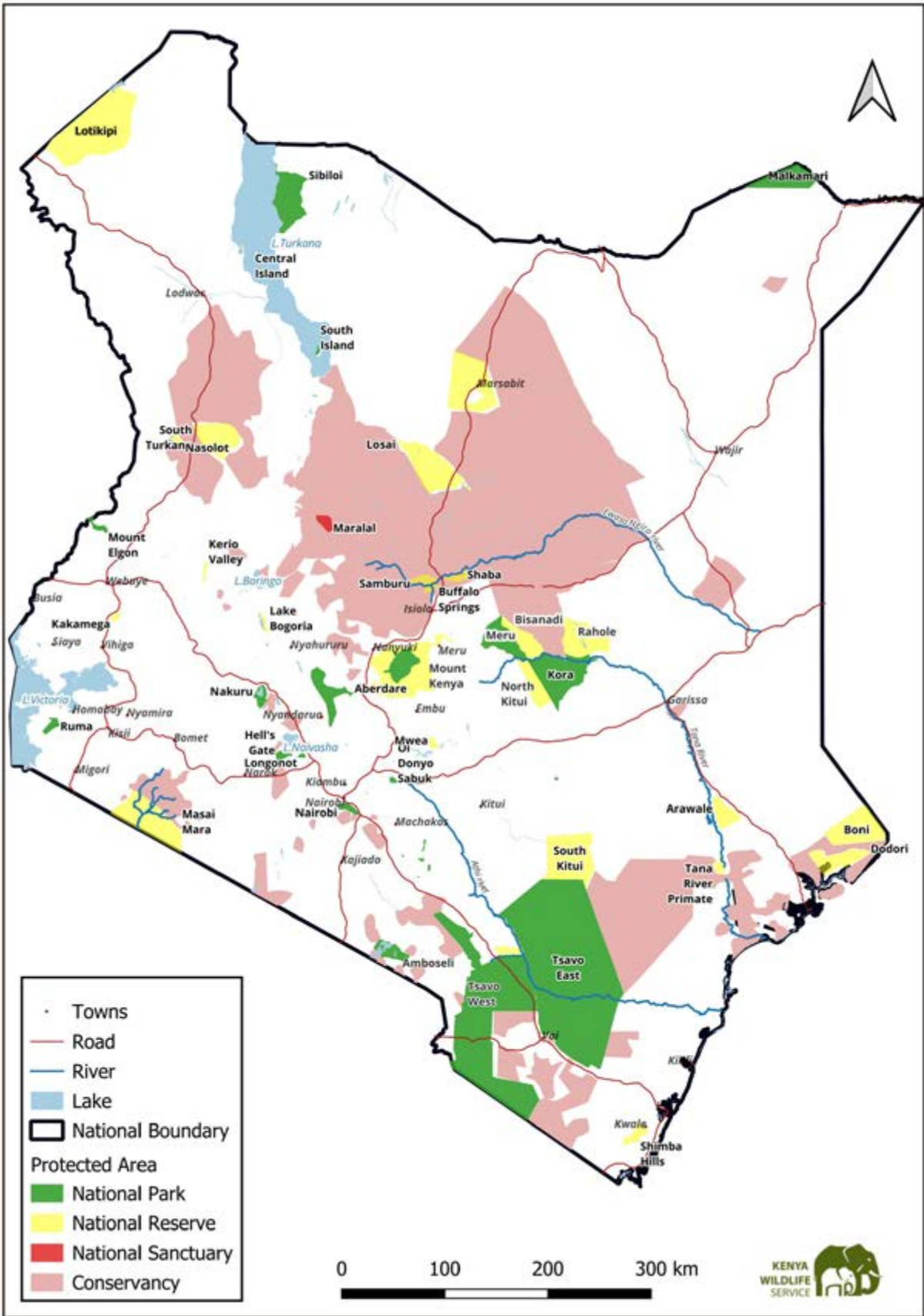




# CONTENTS

<b>III</b>	Message from the Director General		
<b>01</b>	Northern White Rhino Recovery: A Journey from Extinction to Hope		
<b>03</b>	Celebrating the World's Fastest Sprinter		
<b>04</b>	Roadmap to Save Pangolin and Vultures		
<b>06</b>	Elephant Translocation for Coexistence and Habitat Restoration		
<b>08</b>	Ground-breaking Talks on Black Rhino Habitat Expansion		
<b>09</b>	Securing the Future of Carnivores		
<b>10</b>	Leveraging Technology To Boost Revenue Collection and Enhance Customer Experience		
<b>12</b>	Building Bridges Between People and Wildlife: Initiatives to Prevent Conflict and Promote Community Welfare		
<b>13</b>	President Ruto Hails KWS for Historic Rangers Recruitment		
<b>15</b>	United For Conservation: Harnessing The Power Of Partnership		
		<b>17</b>	First Lady Rachel Ruto Celebrates Young Environmental Champions: Special Game Drive for Winners at the Nairobi National Park
		<b>19</b>	Pedals for Purpose: KWS and Ride Africa Unite Conservation with Community Impact
		<b>21</b>	National Thanks-Giving Service for the Uniformed Services And Their Families
		<b>23</b>	Fringing Reefs, Scenic Islands, Dolphins & More...
		<b>25</b>	KWS Launches Its Strategic Plan 2024-2028
		<b>26</b>	KWS Airwing: Soaring to Protect Kenya's Wildlife
		<b>28</b>	Future of Conservation is in the Skies - Drones, Surveillance, Data and information.
		<b>29</b>	DG Reflects on Two-year Achievements, Challenges and Future Goals
		<b>32</b>	Six Months In Numbers

# KENYA'S PROTECTED AREAS RESERVED FOR WILDLIFE CONSERVATION, TOURIST ATTRACTIONS, JOB CREATION AND LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT





Prof. Erustus Kanga, PhD, EBS.

# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

At the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), our mission remains resolute: to conserve, manage, and sustainably harness Kenya's unparalleled natural heritage for the benefit of present and future generations. Over the past two years, KWS has achieved transformative milestones, redefining our role as a global leader in biodiversity conservation and as a cornerstone of Kenya's tourism and economic development.

Our journey of achievement has been profoundly shaped by the visionary leadership and unwavering support of His Excellency President William Ruto, whose personal commitment to conservation has inspired and guided our efforts. We also owe our success to the strategic oversight of the Board of Trustees and the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife, whose policy direction continues to be instrumental in achieving our objectives.

A cornerstone of our progress has been the implementation of the KWS Strategic Plan 2024–2028. This forward-looking framework addresses critical conservation challenges such as habitat degradation, human-wildlife conflict, and climate change, emphasizing innovation, partnerships, and enhanced institutional capacity as pivotal to our mission. It has provided a clear roadmap for sustained impact and resilience in the face of evolving challenges.

One of our proudest accomplishments has been the historic recruitment and training of 1,274 rangers and 150 cadets, the largest such initiative in over a decade. These newly inducted

rangers, equipped with modern tools and advanced training, now serve as the guardians of Kenya's iconic wildlife. This milestone not only strengthens our operational capacity but also underscores the KWS role in creating meaningful employment opportunities for Kenyan youth.

Technology and digitization have been central to our success. By completely on-boarding our services onto the eCitizen platform, we've enhanced efficiency and transparency, achieving a remarkable 43% revenue growth. The acquisition of satellite connectivity has not only streamlined operations across 71 sites but also extended internet benefits to local communities, bridging the digital divide. Additionally, innovations such as LoRa WAN, rhino ear notching, and GPS collaring of elephants have revolutionized wildlife monitoring and anti-poaching efforts.

Our commitment to endangered species has yielded significant results, including the establishment of rhino and bongo breeding sanctuaries and the successful translocation of species such as rhinos, elephants, and bongos to key habitats. These initiatives have contributed



to the steady population growth of iconic species, including rhinos (now exceeding 2,000), elephants (approaching 37,000), and lions (rising to 2,600). These figures reaffirm our dedication to reversing biodiversity loss through evidence-based conservation.

The fight against human-wildlife conflict has been relentless but rewarding. We have constructed over 122 kilometres of new wildlife barriers and rehabilitated another 71 kilometres to minimize encounters. Our proactive interventions—including 2,000 elephant drives and the distribution of 1,250 predator deterrence lights—have reduced incidents and safeguarded livelihoods. Furthermore, enhanced response times and compassionate follow-ups have strengthened our bonds with affected communities.

Community partnerships remain at the heart of our conservation strategy. Investments in Corporate Social Responsibility projects, valued at Ksh50 million, have directly supported education, water access, and improved infrastructure in human wildlife conflict hotspots. These initiatives underscore our belief that conservation is most successful when communities are empowered to thrive alongside wildlife.

Our success would not have been possible without the unwavering support of our valued partners. From international conservation organisations to local community groups, our partners have played an integral role in amplifying our efforts.

Their expertise, resources, and shared vision have enabled us to tackle complex challenges, innovate solutions, and achieve tangible results. Whether through funding, technical support, or collaborative programs, the contribution of our partners has been indispensable in securing Kenya's biodiversity. We extend our deepest gratitude to each of them for standing alongside us in this noble endeavour.

As we look ahead, KWS is committed to bolstering financial sustainability. By transforming select national parks into premium destinations, developing visitor centres and gift shops, and establishing innovative revenue streams like the Wildlife Conservation Foundation, we aim to reduce dependence on the National Treasury while enhancing visitor experiences.

In recognition of these strides, KWS has garnered national accolades, including the 'Most Improved Parastatal' title and the Best Customer Service, Social Impact, and Sustainability Award from the Institute of Customer Experience Kenya. These honours reflect the dedication of our staff and the transformative impact of our collective efforts.

We are proud of how far we have come, but we remain acutely aware of the work ahead. As we navigate the challenges of conservation in an ever-changing world, KWS remains steadfast in its commitment to innovation, collaboration, and excellence. Together, let us secure Kenya's rich biodiversity for generations to come.







# NORTHERN WHITE RHINO RECOVERY:

## A JOURNEY FROM EXTINCTION TO HOPE

Once on the brink of extinction, the northern white rhino has sparked a ground-breaking conservation effort using advanced reproductive technologies. Despite overwhelming challenges, a dedicated team of scientists, led by KWS, is determined to bring this species back from the edge of oblivion. From IVF breakthroughs to embryo transfers, the recovery of the northern white rhino represents a monumental leap forward in the fight against extinction.

Nearly two decades ago, the northern white rhino faced extinction. Poaching had decimated the species, leaving only four individuals by the turn of the century. By 2008, the species was declared

functionally extinct in the wild, with only a handful of survivors in captivity. In 2009, the last remaining northern white rhinos—two females, Najin and Fatu, and two males, Suni and Sudan—were relocated to Ol

Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya, where conservationists, led by Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), clung to the hope that a natural breeding environment might revive the species.

However, the years passed without success. In 2014, Suni, the youngest male, died unexpectedly, leaving just three survivors: Najin, Fatu, and Sudan. By March 2018, Sudan passed away, and with him went the last natural hope for the species. This marked a critical turning point, prompting KWS and international partners to explore cutting-edge reproductive technologies like in vitro fertilization (IVF) and stem cell technology to save the species.

On August 22, 2019, a glimmer of hope appeared when oocytes were successfully harvested from Najin and Fatu under general anaesthesia. A total of 10 eggs were collected, sparking optimism that stem cell technology could one day create viable sperm cells from the tissue of deceased males to form the foundation for future generations of northern white rhinos.

Despite initial setbacks, such as the failure of the first batch of eggs to develop into viable embryos in September 2020, progress continued. By 2021,

the team had preserved three embryos and collected additional genetic material, maintaining hope for future successes. A crucial decision was made to cease using Najin as an egg donor due to ethical concerns about her health, leaving Fatu as the last hope for the species.

By December 2020, the team had successfully produced two additional embryos. In 2021, a breakthrough occurred with the creation of five more embryos, bringing the total to 22. In 2022, further progress was made with another round of egg collections, yielding five more embryos. The embryos were cryopreserved, and southern white rhino surrogates were carefully monitored, as they would be key to carrying the embryos to term.

In September 2023, the team achieved a bitter-sweet milestone. An embryo was successfully transferred to a southern white rhino surrogate, Curra, who became pregnant. While Curra tragically passed away before the pregnancy could progress, her role in

demonstrating the viability of these advanced techniques was critical in advancing the project.

By the end of 2024, the team had successfully produced 35 northern white rhino embryos, a monumental achievement. The embryos are closely monitored, with ongoing efforts to confirm a successful pregnancy. The emotional journey of nearly two decades is not over, but the progress is undeniable, and the team remains hopeful that the northern white rhino will one day roam the wild once again.

The Northern White Rhino Recovery Project stands at the forefront of conservation science, showcasing the power of reproductive technologies in reversing extinction. While challenges remain, the dedication of KWS and its global partners offers a beacon of hope for the future of the northern white rhino. Continued collaboration and innovation will be essential to ensuring that this species, once declared extinct, can thrive once more.







# CELEBRATING THE WORLD'S FASTEST SPRINTER

KWS is revising its Cheetah Conservation and Management Strategy as part of its broader 2024-2028 Strategic Plan, aiming to safeguard the future of cheetah populations in Kenya. With key threats such as habitat loss, human-wildlife conflict, and illegal wildlife trade, this updated strategy focuses on strengthening collaboration between government agencies, local communities, and conservation partners to ensure the survival of this iconic species.

Globally, the cheetah population is estimated at around 6,512 mature individuals, with South Africa housing the largest number—approximately 3,526 individuals spread across 11 sub-populations. In Eastern Africa, the cheetah population stands at about 2,102 mature individuals, spread across 14 sub-populations. Within Kenya and Tanzania, the Serengeti, Mara, Tsavo, and Laikipia landscapes together support about 1,250 mature cheetahs.

In Kenya, the total cheetah population is estimated at around 1,160 individuals, with the largest populations found in

the Mara, Tsavo, Laikipia, and Samburu landscapes. Smaller groups are also scattered across northern Kenya and the southern rangelands.

Despite these efforts, cheetahs face numerous challenges. These include the depletion of prey, human-wildlife conflict, unregulated tourism, habitat loss and fragmentation, diseases, small population sizes, and the illegal capture and smuggling of cheetah cubs for the pet trade.

In response to these threats, KWS, in collaboration with various stakeholders, developed the Cheetah and Wild Dog

Conservation and Management Strategy for Kenya (2009-2014), which is currently under review. The strategy outlines critical actions to mitigate the threats to cheetah populations and promote their long-term survival.

On December 4th, the world marked International Cheetah Day, a global initiative aimed at raising awareness about the endangered status of cheetahs and the challenges they face. The day serves as a reminder of the urgent need for continued conservation efforts to protect one of the planet's most iconic and vulnerable predators.

# ROADMAP TO SAVE PANGOLIN AND VULTURES

In a ground breaking step towards biodiversity conservation, KWS has launched two critical initiatives: the **National Recovery and Action Plan for Pangolin (2024-2028)** and the **Vulture Multi-Species Action Plan (2024-2034)**. These action plans address the urgent threats facing Kenya's pangolins and vultures, focusing on habitat protection, community engagement, and collaborative solutions to ensure the survival of these vital species while preserving the delicate balance of Kenya's ecosystems

The pangolin plan targets Kenya's three pangolin species—Temminck's ground pangolin, giant pangolin, and white-bellied pangolin—which are gravely impacted by illegal wildlife trade, habitat loss, and human-wildlife conflict. Often referred to as the "world's most trafficked mammals," pangolin face a dire survival challenge. Developed with partners like Fauna & Flora and guided by the **KWS Strategic Plan (2024-2028)**, this initiative seeks to secure viable pangolin populations through strategic actions, including strengthened legal frameworks, habitat restoration, community engagement, and global collaboration.

Meanwhile, the **Vulture Multi-Species Action Plan** focuses on safeguarding Kenya's eight vulture species, renowned for their critical ecological role as nature's clean-up crew. Vultures face threats such as poisoning, habitat encroachment, and persecution. The plan highlights key interventions like mitigating poisoning incidents, fostering scientific research, and engaging



local communities to promote coexistence. Aligned with international conservation agreements, such as the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS), the plan underscores Kenya's global responsibility to protect migratory and resident vulture populations.

Both action plans reflect Section 49 of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act, which mandates species-specific conservation strategies

developed through multi-stakeholder collaboration. KWS brought together experts, conservationists, and organizations, including Fauna & Flora, National Museums of Kenya, the Peregrine Fund, and Nature Kenya, to enrich these frameworks with actionable solutions.

At the heart of both initiatives is the recognition of local communities as key partners in conservation. Communities, often at the front-line of human-



wildlife interactions, are empowered through sustainable livelihood opportunities, conservation education, and community-driven tourism initiatives. This approach ensures that conservation efforts benefit both wildlife and people, fostering a sense of ownership and shared responsibility.

The action plans also emphasize collaboration across local, national, and international levels. Through partnerships with organizations like The Pangolin Project and leverage

international frameworks, KWS aims to address challenges such as illegal wildlife trade and transboundary species threats.

The conservation of pangolin and vultures is not just about protecting individual species; it's about safeguarding the intricate balance of our ecosystems and ensuring a sustainable future for all. This underscores the broader vision of these plans—to preserve wildlife, strengthen ecosystems, and enhance human well-being.

The launch of these action plans marks a significant milestone in Kenya's conservation journey. With a foundation laid for transformative change, KWS calls on all stakeholders—government agencies, conservation partners, and the public—to unite in protecting Kenya's natural heritage. Through collective action, Kenya continues to set a global standard for biodiversity conservation, ensuring that future generations inherit a thriving natural world.







# ELEPHANT TRANSLOCATION FOR COEXISTENCE AND HABITAT RESTORATION

In a series of strategic initiatives, KWS translocated elephants to mitigate human-wildlife conflict and promote ecological balance.

In one landmark conservation effort, KWS successfully translocated 50 elephants from Mwea National Reserve to Aberdare National Park, alleviating pressures on the Mwea ecosystem and promoting sustainable human-wildlife coexistence. This initiative is a significant step towards ensuring the long-term survival of Kenya's

elephant population while benefiting local communities and ecosystems.

Kenya's elephant population faced catastrophic declines in the late 20th century, largely due to poaching. Between 1979 and 1989, the population plummeted from an estimated 170,000 to just 16,000 elephants.

The formation of KWS in 1990 marked a turning point, and since then, the population has steadily recovered. The 2021 National Wildlife Census recorded 36,280 elephants, a testament to the success of long-term conservation efforts. The newly launched National Elephant Action Plan (2023-2032) aims to continue this progress by



securing sustainable populations, mitigating human-wildlife conflicts, and restoring habitats.

Mwea National Reserve, which saw its elephant population grow from 49 in 1979 to 156 today, was facing overcrowding challenges. As the population increased, approximately 50 elephants moved beyond the reserve's boundaries, resulting in damage to property and escalating human-elephant conflicts. The translocation to Aberdare National Park was a necessary step to ease pressure on Mwea and reduce these conflicts, ensuring a balance between conservation efforts and community well-being.

The translocation aligns with the KWS Strategic Plan (2024-2028), which emphasizes modern conservation strategies, technology integration, and community engagement. The plan envisions thriving wildlife populations, protected habitats, and stronger community connections to nature, all guided by the KWS core values of

professionalism, accountability, and inclusivity. By relocating elephants to Aberdare, KWS not only alleviated pressure on Mwea but also supported biodiversity in both reserves, ensuring a more sustainable future for both ecosystems and local communities.

The translocation will also support sustainable development and ecotourism. As the elephants settle into Aberdare, local communities are set to benefit from increased tourism, which is expected to generate new economic opportunities and fund long-term conservation efforts.

The launch event was presided over by the Cabinet Secretary for Tourism and Wildlife, Hon. Rebecca Miano, with the Embu County Governor H.E. Hon. Cecily Mbarire, in attendance. Governor Mbarire announced plans to re-brand Mwea National Reserve, aiming to transform it into a more recognized and better-managed wildlife habitat. Prof. Kanga, emphasized that the translocation reflects the KWS

adaptive management approach to emerging conservation challenges. He reiterated the goal of enhancing the socio-economic welfare of local communities while ensuring the well-being of elephants and their ecosystems.

In a separate operation, KWS translocated two elephants from Rumuruti Forest to Tsavo West National Park. These elephants had adapted to human-dominated environments, posing risks to local communities and themselves. The relocation to Tsavo West, known for its vast landscapes and diverse ecosystems, offers a safer habitat for the elephants, reducing human-wildlife conflicts and supporting conservation efforts.

Both translocations were conducted following International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) guidelines and the Translocation and Immobilization Protocol for the African Elephant in Kenya (2019), ensuring the safety and well-being of the elephants throughout the process.



# GROUND-BREAKING TALKS ON BLACK RHINO HABITAT EXPANSION

In a significant stride for black rhino conservation, Prof. Kanga convened a high-level meeting at KWS headquarters that brought together Hon. Rebecca Miano, Cabinet Secretary for Tourism and Wildlife; former U.S. Ambassador to Kenya, Her Excellency Meg Whitman; Jamie Gaymer, head of the Kenya Rhino Range Expansion (KRRE) project; Boston Consulting Group representatives; and senior KWS leadership.



At the heart of the discussions was the ambitious KRRE project, a transformative initiative aimed at rebuilding black rhino ancestral landscapes, drive ecological and socio-economic impacts and cement Kenya's legacy as a global conservation leader. This initiative will extend Kenya's black rhino habitat to be among the largest in the World.

Spanning an impressive 34,000 square kilometres, these interconnected rhino habitats across the Tsavo ecosystem and Laikipia landscapes will not only enhance rhino movement and genetic diversity but also strengthen their resilience against threats like poaching and climate change.

The KRRE initiative aims to address the challenges posed

by overcrowded sanctuaries, territorial conflicts, and limited ecological space resulting from Kenya's successful rhino conservation efforts. This effort aligns with Kenya's National Recovery Action Plan for the Black Rhino (2022–2026), which envisions a meta-population of at least 2,000 eastern black rhinos in suitable habitats by 2037, with an interim goal of 1,500 black rhinos by 2030.



# SECURING THE FUTURE OF CARNIVORES

Amid growing pressures on wildlife habitats, KWS hosted the 14th Carnivore Conference at its Nairobi headquarters, focusing on the theme 'Carnivore Conservation in Changing Landscapes.' The two-day forum brought together conservationists, researchers, policymakers, and community representatives to explore innovative solutions for safeguarding carnivores in the face of human-wildlife conflicts, habitat fragmentation, and environmental changes.

The conference emphasized collaboration and innovation in addressing challenges such as habitat loss, human-carnivore conflicts, and resource competition. The conference also showcased progress in the implementation of the National Recovery and Action Plan for Lions and Spotted Hyenas, now in its fourth year. Prof.

Kanga announced plans to revise conservation strategies for cheetahs and wild dogs and develop a multi-species action plan for lesser-known small carnivores, which face increasing extinction threats but often receive less attention. Key partners such as WWF Kenya and Ewaso Lions played pivotal roles in organizing the event,

alongside other conservation organizations. The forum provided a dynamic platform for knowledge-sharing, fostering partnerships, and shaping actionable strategies to secure the future of Kenya's carnivores.





# LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST REVENUE COLLECTION AND ENHANCE CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

## Triple Crown of Awards, Digitization, Sustainability and Marine Conservation Excellence

KWS continued its winning streak, earning accolades that highlight its commitment to digital transformation, customer service excellence, and sustainable conservation practices.

The Service received the prestigious Most Improved Parastatal award from President William Ruto during the eCitizen platform's anniversary at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC). This recognition celebrates a

remarkable 47% revenue increase and seamless integration of all KWS services into the digital platform, aligning with the President's directive to digitize government services.

During his visit to the KWS exhibition stand, President Ruto lauded the agency's simplified eight-step payment system, which has reduced ticket processing times from ten minutes to five minutes, with pre-paid visitors enjoying express lane access within two

minutes. The President praised KWS as a model of efficiency and transparency, urging other agencies to embrace digitization to improve public service delivery.

Prof. Kanga, emphasized that digital transformation had not only streamlined operations but also enhanced visitor experiences, aligning with the President's vision of dismantling inefficiencies in public service.



At the Institute of Customer Experience (ICX) Awards, KWS was recognized for Best Customer Service, Social Impact, and Sustainability. This accolade celebrates its dedication to engaging local communities and promoting sustainable conservation.

Prof. Kanga attributed the win to the success of the Tunza Mali Yako campaign, which educates the public on their role in wildlife conservation. "Customer experience must remain central to our mission, as every visitor becomes an ambassador for conservation," he stated.

The unveiling of new uniforms for Mbugani Guest House attendants and branded sportswear for KWS teams reinforced the organization's emphasis on professionalism and teamwork.

In addition, Kisite Mpunguti Marine National Park and Reserve received the Eco-Warrior Award from Ecotourism Kenya, recognizing its balance of conservation and responsible tourism as a Blue Park and Magical Kenya Signature Experience.

Kisite Mpunguti Marine National Park and Reserve added another feather to its cap as the Leading Protected Area in Biodiversity Conservation at the 2024 Eco-Warrior Awards. Spanning 39 square kilometres off Kenya's southern coast, the park is a haven for marine life, featuring vibrant coral reefs, dolphins, sea turtles, and tropical fish.

Often referred to as the "Garden of Eden under the sea," Kisite Mpunguti exemplifies community-driven conservation. Its co-management model with local fisherfolk has yielded

sustainable outcomes, blending eco-tourism with marine protection.

Visitors enjoy snorkeling, diving, and dolphin spotting, with activities carefully curated to minimize environmental impact. Prof. Kanga celebrated the award as a testament to the collective efforts of rangers, community members, and stakeholders in safeguarding Kenya's marine heritage.

These awards underscore KWS leadership in innovation, customer service, and sustainable practices. From digitization to marine conservation, KWS is setting benchmarks for excellence, ensuring Kenya's wildlife and habitats remain thriving treasures for generations to come.



# BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE:

## INITIATIVES TO PREVENT CONFLICT AND PROMOTE COMMUNITY WELFARE

In a concerted effort to mitigate human-wildlife conflict and bolster community welfare, KWS implemented a series of impactful initiatives across the nation. To prevent wildlife encroachment into human settlements, KWS has constructed 122 kilometres of new fences, rehabilitated 71 kilometres, and maintained 2,064 kilometres of existing barriers. These measures are crucial in safeguarding both human lives and wildlife habitats.

Demonstrating a commitment to corporate social investment, KWS has invested Ksh50 million in community projects. In high-conflict areas, fourteen classrooms have been constructed, providing safe learning environments and promoting education. Additionally, boreholes have been drilled in the Tsavo Conservation Area and Baringo, ensuring access to clean water for communities and reducing competition with wildlife for natural resources.

To address immediate threats posed by wildlife, KWS has

conducted 2,000 elephant drives, utilizing both foot patrols and aerial support to guide elephants away from human settlements, thereby reducing potential conflicts. Furthermore, 1,250 predator deterrence lights have been distributed to livestock owners, effectively protecting livestock from nocturnal predators and securing livelihoods.

Recognizing the profound impact of human-wildlife encounters, KWS facilitated the disbursement

of Ksh 2.9 million as consolation support to families who have tragically lost loved ones. This financial assistance aims to provide some relief during such difficult times. These comprehensive efforts by KWS underscore a steadfast dedication to fostering harmonious coexistence between humans and wildlife, ensuring the safety and well-being of communities, and preserving Kenya's rich biodiversity.





# PRESIDENT RUTO HAILS KWS FOR A HISTORIC RANGERS RECRUITMENT



**This alignment of conservation priorities with our economic agenda showcases how strategic investments in wildlife protection can create employment, strengthen local economies, and preserve our ecological heritage for future generations”**

Speaking at the passing-out parade for 1,274 ranger recruits at the KWS Law Enforcement Academy in Manyani, the President underscored the KWS critical role in safeguarding Kenya’s natural heritage and driving economic transformation.

KWS revenue collection rose by 43%—from KSh5.3 billion to KSh7.6 billion—following the digitization of services through the e-Citizen platform. This revenue growth has enabled KWS to fund 87% of its budget independently, facilitating the acquisition of 98 vehicles to enhance ranger mobility and operational efficiency.

President Ruto urged KWS to aim for full financial self-

sustainability within two years by strengthening public-private partnerships. “KWS must attract investments in infrastructure, create competitive tourism products, and enhance national parks’ capacities to drive sustainable development,” he said.

Kenya’s commitment to anti-poaching efforts has achieved remarkable milestones, including zero rhino poaching in 2020. Today, the country boasts Africa’s third-largest rhino population (2,004) and the fourth-largest elephant population (37,000). President Ruto praised the critical role of community and private conservancies, which collectively operate over 250 initiatives that protect wildlife,





secure livelihoods, and reclaim critical conservation land.

Marking the first recruitment in a decade, the enlistment of 1,274 rangers addresses a 26.5% workforce shortfall, bolstering conservation efforts, reducing human-wildlife conflicts, and enhancing security. This initiative fulfills President Ruto's directive to recruit 1,350 rangers and 150 cadets in the 2023/24 financial year.

"This recruitment is a crucial investment in Kenya's youth, empowering them to protect our irreplaceable natural resources while contributing to key sectors like tourism, agriculture, and energy," the President said. Referring to the recruits as Kenya's "Green Warriors," he called on them to uphold courage, dedication, and patriotism in their roles.

Cabinet Secretary for Tourism and Wildlife Hon. Rebecca Miano highlighted the record-breaking inclusion of women in this year's recruitment—the highest in the KWS 35-year history. "These young women and men are champions of Kenya's natural heritage, representing the resilience and inclusivity of our conservation efforts," she said.

Hon. Miano announced plans to transform the KWS Law Enforcement Academy into a global wildlife conservation training hub, incorporating modern disciplines like climate change, photography, and storytelling. She reaffirmed the government's commitment to strengthening ties with local communities to foster active involvement in conservation initiatives.

Prof. Kanga expressed gratitude for the government's support, noting that the expanded workforce positions KWS to safeguard biodiversity and drive sustainable development.

President Ruto called for stronger collaboration between the government, communities, and private partners to ensure Kenya remains a global beacon of conservation excellence. He urged all Kenyans to stand united in defending the country's natural wealth and reputation.

"This alignment of conservation priorities with our economic agenda showcases how strategic investments in wildlife protection can create employment, strengthen local economies, and preserve our ecological heritage for future generations," he concluded.



# UNITED FOR CONSERVATION:

## HARNESSING THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

In the intricate world of conservation, no single entity can achieve monumental success alone. Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) recognizes that protecting Kenya's wildlife and ecosystems demands a united front—a coalition of diverse stakeholders working towards the shared vision of thriving wildlife populations and resilient habitats. Partnerships and collaborations lie at the heart of this vision, providing the “why” and the “how” for sustainable conservation.

### Why Partner?

Conservation is resource-intensive, requiring significant investments in funding, technology, expertise, and community engagement. Partnerships allow KWS to:

1. *Secure financial resources and cutting-edge tools.*
2. *Tap into specialized knowledge and technical expertise.*
3. *Actively involve local communities, sharing benefits such as ecotourism revenues to incentivize support for conservation efforts.*
4. *Coordinate the protection of ecosystems and wildlife*

*corridors, often extending beyond protected areas or national borders.*

5. *Align with global initiatives such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).*

### How Partnerships Work

Effective collaborations are built on trust, aligned goals, and shared responsibilities. From NGOs advocating for wildlife corridors to private donors equipping rangers and international bodies driving policy change, these partnerships amplify KWS's impact. Together, we combat poaching, restore habitats, support community livelihoods, enhance capacity through training, and position Kenya as a global leader in conservation innovation.

### Key Partnerships in Action

The KWS corporate Strategic Plan 2024-2028 emphasizes stakeholder participation as a critical pillar of conservation. Here are some of the key partners and their invaluable contributions to achieving these goals in 2024:

1. **Sheldrick Wildlife Trust**, who supported the Service in fundraising for customised twenty (20) Land Cruisers, one (1) logistics lorry, and fifty (50) 4-person tents, in addition to continued support of our mobile veterinary units.
2. **51 Degrees Ltd** installed and is monitoring the first LoRAWAN tags and gateways in the KWS Ngulia Rhino Sanctuary, on top of their work in the Tsavo Conservation Area.
3. **The Animal Welfare Institute** overhauled one (1) Lycoming husky engine, further pledging to facilitate pilot safety training in future.
4. **The Born-Free Foundation's** initiatives such as the Pride of Meru, Saving Meru's Giants and Pride of Amboseli programmes have contributed to mitigating human-wildlife conflict, protecting key species, and supporting local communities.
5. **Captain Andy Fishing** Supplies made a generous donation to the tune of Ksh. 7.5 million.

6. **Conservation International's** involvement in the GEF-8 Conservation Project which supports human-wildlife conflict management and strengthens community resilience, and advance conservation efforts in key biodiversity areas.
7. **FARADA Group** donated and shipped a drone to enhance partnership in wildlife security and management.
8. **International Narcotics and Law Enforcement** provided support in ranger training, operational capacity building, and anti-poaching efforts.
9. **Phantom Technologies** dedication to supporting KWS has strengthened our capacity to integrate drone technology into our conservation efforts.
10. **Rhino Ark Kenya Charitable Trust's** contributions to fence construction, maintenance, and associated support have significantly mitigated human-wildlife conflict and effectively deterred illegal activities such as poaching and logging.
11. **Shiraz & Leili Wildlife Foundation** donated two (2) prime movers' trucks with elephant translocation crates, one (1) Mitsubishi Canter truck, two (2) Land Cruisers for veterinary services, one (1) tractor and one (1) lifting crane truck.
12. **Tsavo Trust** fundraising support for uniforms worth Ksh32 million through the United States Fish & Wildlife Service, and the delivery of a Toyota Probox station wagon vehicle for intelligence operations in the Tsavo Conservation Area.
13. **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service** bolstered our conservation efforts, particularly in anti-trafficking initiatives and capacity building.
14. **USAID Kenya and East Africa** comprehensive assistance strengthened our ability to address wildlife conservation priorities, enhance wildlife security, and mitigate human-wildlife conflict. It also supported organizational improvements in resource mobilization, partnership management, and financial accountability.
15. **Wild Landscapes International** donated one (1) drone, pledged five (5) New Land Cruiser Pickups and for hosting the KWS top leadership in Washington D.C. and Yellowstone National Park in engagements which facilitated meaningful discussions with U.S. Agencies and philanthropists and provided valuable benchmarking opportunities.
16. **WWF Kenya** donated one (1) Land Cruiser pickup and 2,500 predator deterrent lights.
17. **Connected Conservation Foundation** helped to establish an independent LoRaWAN system across our National Parks and Conservation areas.
18. **Kenya Rhino Range Expansion** funded KWS lobbying visit to the USA.
19. **Eco Solutions** donated big and small solar lamps, solar torches, and water filters valued at Kshs 2 million.
20. **Phantom** trained two KWS drone pilots.
21. **San Diego Zoo Wildlife Association** trained KWS staff on the care of captured animals at Nairobi Animal Orphanage and Kisumu Impala.
22. **African Film Foundation** portrayed the Service in a positive light in their 50,000-year history of the Ivory trade across Africa.
23. **Safari Series Ltd** donated one new motorbike and arranged a meeting between DG and CEO of Natural Capital next year.
24. **Mara Elephant Project** Supported KWS application for the IWT Challenge Fund with the UK Government.

These partnerships, among many others, have been instrumental in equipping KWS to tackle the challenges of conservation head-on.

### Join the Cause

The future of wildlife conservation lies in collective action. KWS invites more partners to join the mission of safeguarding Kenya's wildlife heritage. Together, we can create a legacy where wildlife thrives and communities prosper—one partnership at a time. Let's shape the future of conservation—united and inspired.



# FIRST LADY RACHEL RUTO CELEBRATES YOUNG ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMPIONS:

SPECIAL GAME DRIVE FOR WINNERS AT THE NAIROBI NATIONAL PARK



In a heartening celebration of youth-driven environmental stewardship, KWS hosted Her Excellency First Lady Rachel Ruto for a special game drive at Nairobi National Park. The event, held for the winners of the First Lady's Mazingira Awards (FLAMA), spotlighted the passion and creativity of young environmental champions dedicated to conservation.

The event, designed to honour young environmental champions, featured a scenic game drive, followed by a meal and a live performance by the KWS Brass Band at the iconic Ivory Burning Site within the park.

FLAMA is an annual initiative launched by Mrs. Ruto in September 2023 during the Africa Climate Summit. The awards recognize exceptional contributions to environmental conservation and climate action by students across Kenya. This year's program saw over 400 students, 100 teachers, and 200 invited guests participate. The 2024 awards ceremony took place on Mazingira Day at State House Nairobi, with Mrs. Ruto presiding over the celebration of eco-conscious learners, teachers, and schools.

During the game drive, Mrs. Ruto praised Nairobi National Park as a unique national

treasure, emphasizing its status as the only national park in the world located within a city. "This is a premier destination for travelers and a testament to Kenya's commitment to preserving our natural heritage," she remarked. The First Lady also addressed key conservation challenges, including poaching, deforestation, and climate change, while highlighting successes such as species translocation and habitat restoration efforts.

Mrs. Ruto encouraged the students to become champions of wildlife conservation by sharing their knowledge, reporting illegal activities, reducing waste, and planting trees to help Kenya achieve its 30% tree cover target. Quoting Nobel Laureate Wangari Maathai's famous hummingbird parable, she urged the learners to take action for the environment: "If each of you continues to care for our environment, we can create a better future for

ourselves, for our wildlife, and for generations to come."

Prof. Kanga also shared a short film on vital wildlife translocation efforts, including those for the mountain bongo and elephants. The 2024 FLAMA competition invited students to express themselves creatively on the theme "Restore Our Land, Secure Our Future (Turejeshe Ardhi Yetu, Tuhakikishe Mustakabali Wetu)". Over 1,000 schools from all 47 counties, including special needs schools, participated, showcasing the widespread engagement in Kenya's environmental movement.

Through initiatives like FLAMA, KWS continues to inspire future generations of conservation leaders, empowering them to actively protect Kenya's rich wildlife and natural resources.







# PEDALS FOR PURPOSE:

## KWS AND RIDE AFRICA UNITE

## CONSERVATION WITH COMMUNITY IMPACT

KWS reaffirmed its leadership in conservation and community empowerment by partnering with Ride Africa – Kenya for a transformative charity cycling event.

Held across iconic landscapes from Lake Nakuru National Park to the Maasai Mara, the initiative blended wildlife preservation with community welfare, raising funds for maternal and child health programs while underscoring the vital connection between sustainable development and conservation.

The cycling challenge brought together riders from around the globe on a shared journey of purpose and resilience. Beginning at Lake Nakuru

National Park, a haven of ecological diversity, cyclists pedaled through breathtaking scenery, where flamingos dotted the shores, endangered rhinos roamed, and giraffes graced the savannah. The route then took participants through Hell's Gate National Park, where dramatic cliffs and geothermal landscapes provided a fitting testament to nature's raw beauty. KWS's expert logistical support ensured the event ran smoothly and safely, highlighting its reputation

as a dependable partner for hosting impactful global events.

The ride culminated at the Maasai Mara National Reserve, where participants celebrated not just their endurance but the tangible impact of collaboration on improving lives. Funds raised through the event will support Child.org's maternal and child health programs, reflecting the far-reaching power of partnerships that link conservation to pressing societal challenges.



At the heart of this initiative is the KWS strategic commitment to fostering partnerships that deliver benefits to both people and wildlife. Guided by its Strategic Plan 2024-2028, KWS prioritizes community participation as a cornerstone of successful conservation. This philosophy aligns with the Government's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), which integrates biodiversity preservation with sustainable tourism and community empowerment. By advancing initiatives like community ranger programs and conservation leases, KWS empowers local communities to become active custodians of Kenya's natural heritage, ensuring that conservation

efforts ripple through generations.

Beyond logistical support, KWS served as a key advocate for sustainable development during the event. By championing initiatives that uplift communities while preserving wildlife, KWS demonstrated that conservation is a shared responsibility, not a solitary endeavor. The participation of local communities was central to the event's success, showcasing how conservation and development can intersect to create mutual benefits.

KWS role in events like Ride Africa sends a powerful message: partnerships are the backbone of conservation success. From government

agencies and private sector partners to local communities and international allies, every stakeholder has a role to play in safeguarding Kenya's natural heritage. Through collaboration, sponsorships, and volunteerism, KWS continues to lead the way in creating a future where both people and nature thrive.

This cycling initiative is a testament to the transformative potential of conservation-driven partnerships. As KWS implements its strategic plan, stories like these serve as powerful reminders that by uniting for a common cause, we can build a sustainable future where wildlife and communities flourish together.





# NATIONAL THANKS-GIVING SERVICE FOR THE UNIFORMED SERVICES AND THEIR FAMILIES

Amid hymns of hope and prayers of gratitude, Kenya Wildlife Service, Kenya Police Service, Kenya Prisons, Kenya Forest Service and the National Youth Service came together at the Holy Family Minor Basilica in Nairobi on December 12th, 2024, for the National Annual Joint Thanksgiving Service for Uniformed Disciplined Services and their families.



The solemn yet uplifting occasion honoured the selfless sacrifices of Kenya's security services, celebrating their role in safeguarding the nation with faith, unity, and shared appreciation.

This significant event, organised under the auspices of the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops, brought together Kenya's security services, their families, and communities.

KWS took centre stage as the chair of the planning committee for the 2024-2025 period. This responsibility highlights KWS's deep commitment to fostering unity and appreciation across the uniformed disciplined services. The Thanksgiving Service forms part of a broader initiative to unite communities, inspire faith,

and recognize the unwavering dedication of Kenya's security personnel.

Across the country, similar thanksgiving services are held at county and sub-county levels, ensuring officers and local communities alike share in the collective appreciation. In 2024, the event held a special significance for KWS, as it not only chaired the national service but also oversaw the organization of 16 regional thanksgiving masses nationwide. This leadership role reflects KWS's pivotal place among Kenya's uniformed services and its commitment to both the nation's security and community well-being.

The ceremony concluded with donations aimed at supporting

vulnerable community members, a gesture that underscored the spirit of service, compassion, and collective responsibility. The success of the national and regional gatherings was made possible through partnerships with key supporters, including Mwito Sacco, Asili Sacco, Magereza Sacco, and Postbank.

As KWS assumes leadership of this cherished tradition for the next two years, the thanksgiving service stands as a powerful symbol of Kenya's gratitude, faith, and unity. It is a testament to the nation's enduring appreciation for the men and women who dedicate their lives to protecting its people, heritage, and future.







## FRINGING REEFS, SCENIC ISLANDS, DOLPHINS & MORE...

Oozing breathtaking beauty, picturesque islands, Kisite Mpunguti Marine Park & Reserve is the undisputed Home of the Dolphins & Coconut Crabs and was established to protect the scenic islands and special habitats of a wide range of endemic marine animals and breeding migratory birds. The marine park features the coral gardens south of Wasini Island and encompasses three small coral rag forest islands, each with considerable areas of fringing reef. Essentially unspoiled, this peaceful island invites exploration and features a picturesquely sculptured rocky coastline and numerous baobab trees.

An enchanted realm of dolphins, living coral gardens, sculpted islands, coconut crabs, green and hawksbill turtles, wheeling seabirds, eye catching coral fish; butterfly, parrot, rock cod, angel fish and rays coupled with sparkling clear waters, this world famous Marine Park promises an underwater world of incredible color and vibrancy. The coral reefs are estimated to be 3-4kms long, running along the near and outer edges of the reefs from Mpunguti islands to the tiny coral island of Kisite itself. The reefs at Kisite are scientifically important habitats, one of the most complex ecosystems on the planet.

Apart from the signature dolphins, nearby is Shimoni, home to many families of porpoises which cruise in and out of the marine park and are frequently sighted in the channel between the mainland and Shimoni. 'Shimo' means hole or cave in Swahili and historically these caves were used by smugglers and slavers. Some caves have freshwater springs flowing into the sea reputed to come from Kilimanjaro, 100 miles inland. The reef provides food

and shelter for an entire marine community.

Designated as a Marine Protected Area (MPA) in 1978, Kisite-Mpunguti Marine Park has successfully showcased its impressive biodiversity and management efforts over the decades. To recognize these accomplishments, the MPA was awarded a gold level Blue Park status on 9th December 2021 and made history as Kenya's first Blue Park by the Marine Conservation Institute (MCI) for achieving the highest science-based standards for marine life protection and management. The dedication of Kisite staff, the local community, and partners make Kisite-Mpunguti a beacon of hope for marine conservation and the award serves as motivation for us at KWS to work even harder to make Kisite-Mpunguti a sustainable MPA that benefits both nature and humanity. Our MPA is an example of an important and richly biodiverse place to protect while at the same time providing local communities with food. The award motivates other nations to strive for strong and effective MPAs that conserve marine wildlife.

Kisite Mpunguti Marine National Park and Reserve is a recent recipient of the 2024 Eco Warrior Awards after emerging the winner as the Leading Protected Area in Biodiversity Conservation. Eco-warrior Awards is a recognition initiative by Ecotourism Kenya that appreciates efforts, innovations and exceptional achievements for promoting responsible tourism and enhancing tourism sustainability which directly conserves the natural environment linked to local communities through mutually beneficial and equitable partnerships.

Kisite Mpunguti stands out as one of the most rewarding snorkeling locations in the coast and additionally, visitors can delight in bird watching, sea diving, glass-bottom boat safaris, coral viewing, walks, wedding/birthdays in the event sites, camping, sunbathing and swimming. Seafood and Swahili lovers can relish in these delicacies in the restaurants in Wasini Island.







# KWS LAUNCHES ITS STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-2028

In a landmark event at Nairobi National Park, on September 30, 2024, KWS launched its **Strategic Plan for 2024-2028**, marking a bold step forward in the country's commitment to wildlife conservation and sustainable natural resource management. The launch was graced by key government officials, conservation partners, and KWS leadership, all united in their vision for a thriving future for Kenya's wildlife.

Prof. Kanga highlighted the pivotal nature of the new Plan, which is rooted in the belief that effective conservation fosters prosperity for both nature and people. He emphasized addressing critical issues such as ecological integrity, wildlife security, and community engagement, through strategic goals aimed at enhancing wildlife populations and strengthening community involvement in conservation efforts.

The Strategic Plan outlines five core strategic issues, including wildlife population recovery, community participation, and improved benefits from

conservation. It features seven key result areas, 24 strategic objectives, and 89 strategies designed to guide KWS over the next five years. Prof. Kanga emphasized that the success of the Plan would depend on strong internal processes and a focus on human resource development to ensure accountability and structured implementation.

Tourism and Wildlife Cabinet Secretary, Hon. Rebecca Miano expressed confidence in the Plan's potential, noting that it provides a clear, accountable framework for the KWS vision. "It embraces innovation, self-regulation, and data-driven management, ensuring that

Kenya's wildlife heritage remains viable for future generations," she stated. The Plan aligns with both national and global priorities, including the Sustainable Development Goals, Vision 2030, and the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

Guided by the core values of professionalism, accountability, resilience, integrity, inclusivity, and innovation, the **KWS 2024-2028 Strategic Plan** sets a transformative course for wildlife conservation in Kenya, promising a brighter future for both nature and local communities.

# KWS AIRWING: SOARING TO PROTECT KENYA'S WILDLIFE



The KWS Airwing is one of the cornerstones of Kenya's wildlife conservation, blending immediate impact with long-term vision to protect the nation's natural heritage. Through diverse operations—from aerial censuses to wildlife translocations—the Airwing plays a critical role in monitoring and sustaining Kenya's ecosystems.

Its aerial censuses provide vital data on population trends and ecosystem health, allowing conservationists to identify at-risk species and implement timely, targeted interventions. This bird's-eye perspective revolutionizes wildlife management, ensuring that strategies are data-driven and effective in preserving biodiversity.

A notable achievement was the successful translocation of giraffes from Sergoit Kruger Farm in Eldoret to Ruko in Baringo. This operation not

only enhanced biodiversity in underpopulated regions but also mitigated human-wildlife conflicts, fostering harmonious coexistence between communities and nature. Beyond censuses and translocations, the Airwing undertakes anti-poaching patrols, habitat monitoring, and emergency responses, covering vast and remote terrains—from savannahs to forests—ensuring comprehensive wildlife protection.

The Airwing's forward-thinking approach leverages cutting-

edge technology and innovative strategies for long-term impact. The continuous monitoring of wildlife populations informs sustainable policies that strengthen ecosystem resilience against environmental pressures and climate change.

By reducing human-wildlife conflicts and supporting ecotourism, the Airwing creates economic opportunities for local communities, reflecting a holistic conservation model that benefits both nature and society.





# FUTURE OF CONSERVATION IS IN THE SKIES - DRONES, SURVEILLANCE, DATA AND INFORMATION



KWS is transforming conservation by integrating Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), or drones, into its operations. The drones are soaring silently above the savannahs, seeing through the darkness, and keeping watch over elephants, rhinos, lions and their habitats.

These high-tech tools are shifting wildlife protection from reactive to proactive, addressing challenges like poaching, habitat loss, and human-wildlife conflicts.

Equipped with thermal imaging, all-weather capabilities, and real-time data transmission, drones provide rangers with unprecedented situational awareness, enhancing safety, efficiency, and decision-making.

These drones are game-changers, enabling rangers to detect poachers from up to 10 km away, respond faster, and reduce risks. They also help manage human-wildlife conflicts by monitoring animal movements and preventing incidents before they occur.

Beyond immediate protection, drones generate valuable data, creating a digital archive of Kenya's biodiversity. This data

will inform future conservation strategies, track climate change impacts, and preserve a legacy of knowledge for generations to come. By embracing drone technology, KWS is making Kenya's conservation efforts stronger, smarter, and safer, ensuring a sustainable future for wildlife and communities.



# DG REFLECTS ON TWO-YEAR ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES AND FUTURE GOALS

In a candid Q&A, the Director General reflects on his tenure this far and the organization's major achievements, the challenges of human-wildlife conflict and climate change, and his vision for the future of Kenya's natural heritage.

**Q: What do you consider your greatest achievements in the last two years?**

**A:** We've made significant strides in both conservation and organizational growth over the past two years. Key achievements include enhancing wildlife protection through increased ranger recruitment and intense training, as well as successfully translocating black rhinos to new sanctuaries to continue expanding their range and space in our strategy to increase their population in the country. We also translocated 52 elephants from Mwea to Aberdare and others from Rumuruti to Tsavo West National Park to improve human-wildlife coexistence and protect wildlife habitats. Additionally, we developed and are implementing various species recovery plans such as Vulture Multi-Species Action plan for Kenya (2024-2034); National Recovery and Action Plan for the Pangolin in Kenya (2024-2028); and National Recovery and Action Plan for the Giraffe in Kenya (2023-2027) second edition.

Significantly, we developed and launched the KWS Strategic Plan 2024-2028, which sets a clear path

for thriving wildlife and healthy habitats over the next five years and beyond. The National Human-Wildlife Coexistence Strategy and Action Plan 2024-2033 further promotes peaceful coexistence. Our community outreach, including campaigns like Tunza Mali Yako, Operation Ondoa Fisi, and free park entry initiatives, have greatly enhanced public engagement and awareness. Furthermore, we embraced modern technology to improve service delivery; revenue collection and security surveillance and we played a key role in the international Northern White Rhino rescue and the Mountain Bongo recovery and conservation programme. These achievements reflect a holistic approach to conservation, public involvement, and strengthening institutional resilience.

All these milestones have risen the profile of KWS back to its former glory, as a professional organization leading the path in wildlife protection and conservation in Kenya.

**Q: What has been the biggest challenge, and how has it influenced your leadership?**

**A:** The most significant challenges we face are human-wildlife conflict and climate change. Recent incidents, such as hyena attacks in Juja, highlight the delicate balance between wildlife

protection and community safety. In response, we've implemented proactive strategies like Operation Ondoa Fisi and launched public education programs to address concerns while

safeguarding wildlife. Climate change, which has led to severe droughts, floods, and habitat degradation, has further tested our resilience. These challenges have taught me the importance of leading with empathy, foresight, and collaboration. I now prioritize innovative solutions, community partnerships, and ecosystem restoration for long-term stability.

Financial sustainability is a vital component to a successful and visionary organisation. I have strived hard to improve our revenue collection and instil cost efficiency culture in the organization. This will continue to be a challenge when demands placed on the organization overtake our financial base. Any decision made beyond our control that would impact the organization needs to be weighed carefully.

## Q: What strategies do you use to improve staff welfare and motivation?

A: Our staff are the backbone of our conservation efforts, and their well-being is crucial to our success. We've focused on enhancing capacity by recruiting and training new rangers, as well as supporting continuous professional development to sharpen the skills of all staff. We've also invested in modern tools, infrastructure, and technology to ensure our teams have the resources they need

to work safely and effectively. This creates a supportive and empowering work environment, fostering motivation and commitment to our shared mission. Establishing vibrant and active programmes is in itself important motivation for the staff and to give them a sense of belonging to a successful organization. This has been a primary objective for me.

## Q: What advice would you give to the younger generation that aspires to be like you?

A: My advice to the youth is to pursue your passion with perseverance, determination and purpose. Conservation, like any field, requires resilience, dedication, and a strong sense of responsibility. Be open to learning and adapting—growth comes from humility and curiosity. Lead with integrity, as true

leadership is about service, values, and creating a lasting impact. Above all, protect nature—our environment is our greatest heritage, and it's up to the next generation to conserve it for the future. With hard work, focus, and passion, you can achieve anything.







### Q: What legacy do you hope to leave at the end of your tenure?

A: I aim to leave behind a stronger, more resilient KWS—an institution known globally for conservation excellence and community-driven wildlife management. My vision is for thriving wildlife populations, restored ecosystems, and empowered communities benefiting from coexistence with nature. I hope to inspire a

culture of conservation pride among Kenyans and the world, where protecting wildlife is a shared responsibility. If I can motivate others to continue this mission and ensure Kenya's wildlife heritage remains strong for generations to come, then I will have succeeded.

### Q: What are your biggest fears when it comes to conservation in Kenya

A: We cannot afford to lose space for wildlife and the goodwill of the communities and other landowners. Without these two critical components that has seen the success of wildlife conservation in Kenya, we will have only islands and pockets of sanctuaries for wildlife in the future. This will need continued nurturing the encouragement.

As for KWS, having established a professional organization, it will be vital that it continues to strive to be financially self-reliant for an even more successful future.

# SIX MONTHS IN NUMBERS

 **1,274**

Rangers trained and deployed

 **122 km**

Game proof fences constructed

 **2,000**

Elephant drives for effective conflicts management

 **71**

Sites connected to starlink satellite internet

 **Ksh. 50m**

Corporate Social Investment

 **1,740**

Predator deterrence lights distributed

 **100%**

Customers on-boarded on KWS 29 services on eCitizen platform

 **60**

Elephants translocated

 **45**

Rhinos earnotched

**1,968,453**

Visitors visited our parks

 **98**

New vehicles added to the fleet

 **4,810**

Problem Animal Management Patrols Conducted

 **245 km**

Fire breaks maintained

 **2,064 km**

Fence Maintained

 **79**

Community Outreach and Sensitization programs undertaken

 **33**

Satellites collars deployed to various animals

 **540 acres**

Invisive species mechanical removal

 **12**

Girrafes translocated

 **9**

Lions translocated

 **2**

Drones acquired

 **290**

Kenyan youth in industrial attachment

 **288 km**

Park Roads maintained

 **2**

Boats acquired

## OTHER SPECIES TRANSLOCATED

**85** Zebras

**40** Oribis

**66** Heartbeats

**115** Impalas

**8** Ostriches

**18** Elands

**12** Giraffes

**25** Waterbucks

**18** Gazelles

**140** Reedbucks

**80** Warthogs

**45** Wildebeests

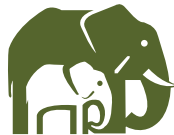










**KENYA  
WILDLIFE  
SERVICE**



 Kenya Wildlife Service  
P.O. Box 40241 - 00100  
Nairobi

 +254 (0) 775 680 888  
+254 (0) 113856 883  
Toll free: 0800597000  
WhatsApp: +254726610509

 [customerservice@kws.go.ke](mailto:customerservice@kws.go.ke)  
[www.kws.go.ke](http://www.kws.go.ke)